



2018 Astronomy Festival Schedule

Thursday, September 6

11:00 – 3:00: Solar viewing, solar bracelet making, various fun activities

Come learn about the sun, observe it safely, and take home your own glow-in-the-sun bracelet (while supplies last).

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

3:00: Ranger Program: How to Use a Planisphere

Join a ranger to learn the basics of observing the night sky using an important tool, a planisphere.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

6:30: Ranger Talent Show

Come to one of our most popular events, featuring the numerous talents of the Great Basin National Park Staff, as (sometimes distantly!) related to the stars.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

7:30 – 12:00: Star party/observing

Enjoy an opportunity to view planets, galaxies, nebulae, star clusters, and other objects through the many telescopes our dedicated volunteers will provide.

Picnic area

8:00: Kid's program: Deep Sky Certificates

Join the hunt to find certain objects many light years away from us. When you finish, you'll get a personalized certificate and a candy bar!

Picnic area

8:30: Constellation tour

Join a dark ranger to learn some of the stories in the sky.

Picnic area



2018 Astronomy Festival Schedule

Friday, September 7

11:00 – 3:00: Solar viewing, solar bracelet making, various fun activities

Come learn about the sun, observe it safely, and take home your own glow-in-the-sun bracelet (while supplies last).

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

12:00: Great Basin for Kids: The Moon

Learn about Earth's one and only lunar neighbor in an activity especially for kids.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

2:00: Ranger Program: Astronomy 101

Join a dark ranger to learn some of the basics of one of our favorite subjects.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center Theater

3:00: Ranger Program: How to Use a Planisphere

Join a ranger to learn the basics of observing the night sky using an important tool, a planisphere.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

6:30: Keynote Speaker: John Barentine, Conservation Director of International Dark-Sky Association: "Star Light, Star Bright: Protecting Our Heritage Of Dark Skies "

Great Basin National Park is a special place to the many thousands of people who visit each year, but few of them learn why "half the park is after dark". The park's dark night skies offer an unparalleled experience for those who seek it out. But such skies are under threat worldwide, as we have come to understand a host of known and suspected hazards involving the use of artificial light at night. These hazards threaten the wellbeing of wildlife, undermine our energy security, compromise public safety, and separate us from an important element of our cultural heritage. The immediacy of these concerns has been heightened in recent years due to the solid-state revolution that has fundamentally changed the way we light our cities. I will review the challenges we face in preserving dark skies around the world and particularly in our parks, describe the impact of the International Dark Sky Association and its work in the past three decades, and provide practical solutions that empower everyone to help take back (and preserve) the night.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

7:30 – 12:00: Star party/observing

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2018 Astronomy Festival Schedule

8:00: Kid's Program: Deep Sky Certificates

Join the hunt to find certain objects many light years away from us. When you finish, you'll get a personalized certificate and a candy bar!

Picnic area

8:30: Constellation tour

Join a dark ranger to learn some of the stories in the sky.

Picnic area

Saturday, September 8

6:00 – 7:30: Equinox Sunrise Walk: The Fremont Indian Culture

Stroll with a ranger to the Baker Archaeological Site, and watch the pre-equinox sunrise. Learn of the Fremont culture and the importance of the celestial sphere to them.

Baker Archaeological Site

11:30: Ranger Program: Astronomy 101

Join a dark ranger to learn some of the basics of one of our favorite subjects.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center Theater

11:00 – 3:00: Solar viewing, solar bracelet making, various fun activities

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Lehman Caves Visitor Center

1:00: Night photography workshop

Thomas Sevcik is visiting us from Salt Lake City to share his knowledge of photographing the night sky. This workshop is aimed at beginners, no experience is necessary. Participants must sign up in advance.

Great Basin Visitor Center classroom



2017 Astronomy Festival Schedule

2:00: Ranger Program: How to Use a Planisphere

Join a ranger to learn the basics of observing the night sky using an important tool, a planisphere.

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

3:00: Kid's Program: Space Jingle!

Lehman Caves Visitor Center

6:30: Speaker: Greg Furlich, University of Utah Cosmic Ray Observatory: "Dark Nights and Desert Air : Understanding the Highest Energy Particles from the Universe "

The Great Basin region is known for its low light pollution and dry desert air, which makes it an ideal place for light sensitive astrophysics experiments. One such experiment within the Great Basin region is the largest cosmic ray observatory in the northern hemisphere, called the Telescope Array (TA) Project. Telescope Array is an international collaboration of scientist from the USA, Japan, South Korea, Russia, and Belgium which focuses on the study of cosmic rays. Cosmic rays are the highest energy charged particles zipping across the universe, and are detected by their interaction with the Earth's atmosphere. Some of these particles observed by the Telescope Array have energy greater than anything that can be produced by current man-made particle accelerators. Telescope Array is researching what energies cosmic rays are accelerated to, what are cosmic rays composed of, and what astrophysical processes are responsible for accelerating cosmic rays to great energies. The astronomical sources of cosmic rays is still unknown, so this groundbreaking, mysterious, and fundamental astrophysics will be explored in this talk. A general overview of the Telescope Array near Delta, UT, cosmic ray detection methods, current understandings, and where the field of cosmic rays is heading will be presented.

7:30 – 12:00: Star party/observing

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Picnic area

8:00: Kid's program – Deep Sky Certificates

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Picnic area

8:30: Constellation tour

Join a dark ranger to learn some of the stories in the sky.

Picnic area

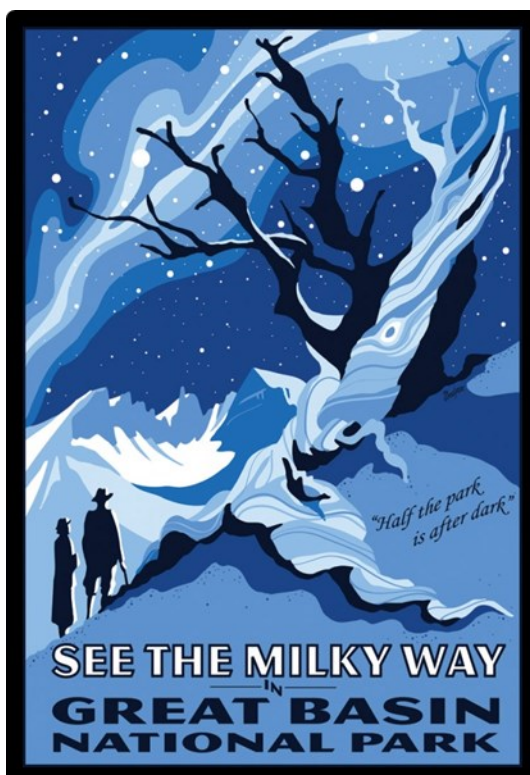


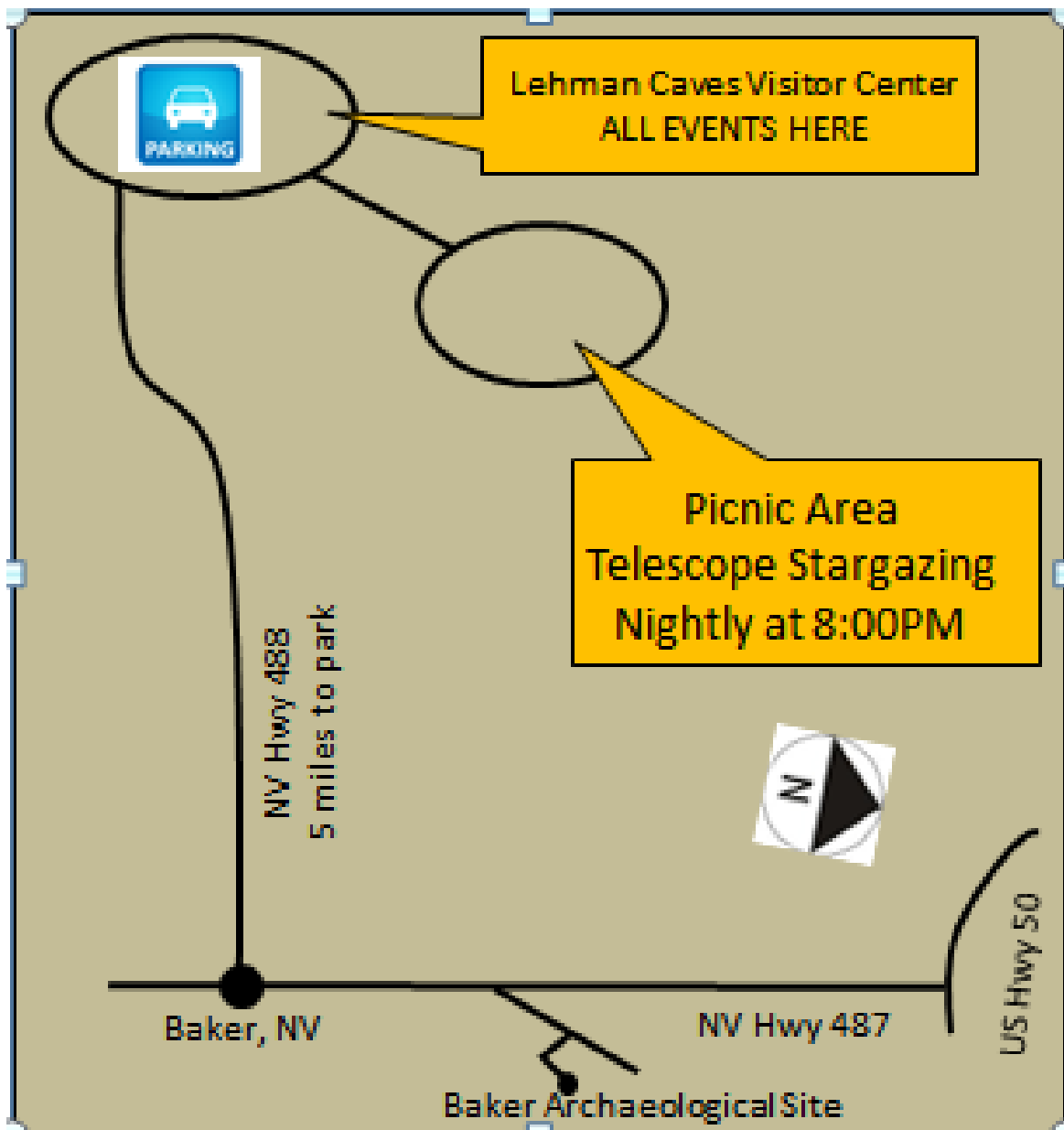
2018 Astronomy Festival Schedule

Most events take place at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center.

Observing will take place in the picnic area. To get to the picnic area, follow NV 488 all the way to the Lehman Caves Visitor Center. You can park there and follow the signs to the right for the picnic area. The picnic area will be closed to cars for the entire festival.

When walking to the picnic area for observing, follow the white lights on the ground to the red lights. Please do not use any light color other than red from this point on. If you have a flashlight you want to use, ask a ranger for red tape. This will preserve everyone's night vision.





All events take place at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center unless otherwise noted. **IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER:** Check signs at the Lehman Caves Visitor Center for alternate locations.

Notes: